**LOWDHAM BOWLING CLUB**

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**Newsletter**

**January 2017**

Dear Member

Christmas and New Year’s Day arrived just over halfway through our close season, which I find comforting. Most of you are in the middle of indoor leagues and competitions, but, I am sure, are eagerly awaiting word from our greenkeeper that outdoor bowls is available again. The green is already looking as it should do……green! Incorporated in my best wishes for the New Year is the hope that you will all enjoy successful and rewarding seasons.

**Annual General Meeting – 23 November 2016**

There were 28 members present when retiring Chairman Michael Stone opened the meeting with a short period of silence to remember past members and those who were currently in poor health. After the formalities of previous minutes, apologies for absence etc, the new President Cliff Rycroft was inducted by his predecessor Barbara Perkins, after she had graciously thanked committee and members for their interest and support during her year of office. In his acceptance speech Cliff referred to the sterling work done by Barbara (including sewing his silver tab onto the chain of office) and the various members of the committee, and asked the club membership to continue to support his and fellow committee members ongoing arrangements for the forthcoming year. He then recounted the story of how he and his wife Rita, came to be LBC members back in the mid 1990’s and how his membership was so helpful to him in coming to terms with the loss of his wife in 2006. He pledged to continue to provide the club with whatever input, direction and support he could give during his presidential year and beyond.

Michael Stone then gave his Secretary’s report, and in Michael Barrett’s absence presented the Treasurer’s receipts and payments account and balance sheet, which showed bank and cash holdings of £9430. Mower repairs costing over £1,100 had restricted our earnings over the year, but it had been decided to keep membership fees and green fees unchanged. However, your committee would be monitoring the accounts carefully during the coming year, in view of paying for outside help in green care and maintenance, and also considering purchase of a new mower.

Michael also read the Club Captain’s report in the absence of Gordon Welbourne, whose letter also contained confirmation of his resignation due to ongoing ill-health. The Chairman thanked Gordon and his wife Joan, for many years of leadership and effort, and was pleased to report that Joan had accepted the post of President-Elect.

Reports from the Fixtures Secretary, Competitions Secretary, Green Convenor and Social Secretary were followed by reports from the various Team Captains.

Michael then announced that the Christine Bailey award from 2016 had been won by John Higgins and the trophy was presented to him. We then came to the election of club officers and after thanking retiring officials, Michael reported that the new Chairman of committee would be John Higgins, who also retained fixtures responsibility, and that Alan Derry had been asked to take over as Club Captain.

It was subsequently reported that Norah and Ken King had graciously accepted your committee’s offer of life membership. Also after considerable thought, Alan Derry has decided not to take up the Club Captaincy.

**Dates for your diary**

During her AGM presentation Social Secretary Eileen Webster listed the dates for the 2017 social programme as follows:-

**Curling afternoon Village Hall 28 January**

**Games evening Village Hall 18 March**

**Coffee evening Club House 13 June**

**Presentation evening Village Hall 11 October**

**Quiz night Village Hall 18 November**

*Eileen also said that if sufficient support is there, she will book a skittles evening at*

***East Bridgford on 22 April****.*

The first organised Sunday event on the green is likely to be on **23 April – a Bowls Drive**.

**Jack Godfrey**

Having recently lost his wife Maureen, Jack has moved into The Westwolds Care Home in Burton Joyce. Jack was an enthusiastic and regular player in many of our league teams for over 25 years, and a valued committee member. Naturally he tends to feel lonely at times and would welcome visits from past and present club members.

**An appreciation**

Since around millennium time, the Captaincy of our club has been in the capable hands of Gordon Welbourne. Now, as he has to relinquish that position due to ill-health, acknowledgement needs to be made of his performance in the Captain’s role. Despite having to face up to more physical and emotional set-backs than anyone I know, he has faithfully fulfilled his club duties, always with the steadfast support of his wife Joan. For the past seven years I have been his Vice Captain, and can testify to his pride in the club and his efforts to achieve the well-being and progress of LBC and its members. As Captain of the friendly teams I have often been short of available players; my approaches to Gordon have always resolved these problems, one way or another.

We remember with pride that as a disabled person, Gordon brought recognition and distinction to our club by being selected for the England team, and by performing well on the international stage.

On the organisational side of the club, Gordon and Joan have set up and led the club in annual visits to Mablethorpe and in indoor matches against the Gedling club. The social impact of these events is obvious to all who take part in them.

The ongoing bravery of Gordon and Joan is recognised by us all, but just to underline it, remember that on one leg and recovering from a stroke, which deprived him of full use of his right arm, Gordon merely switched to playing bowls with his left hand and achieved a standard many of us still aspire to!

**Can you be of assistance?**

Recognising the advancing ages of some of the club’s officers, and of the weight of effort and responsibility they face, it has been decided in committee that the following sub-committees will be formed to provide ongoing assistance:-

**1 Social events - Chaired by Eileen 01159611989**

**2 Housekeeping - Chaired by Margot 01159663122**

**3 Green and gardens - Chaired by Peter 01159312412**

To avoid any unnecessary arm-twisting it would help if you could contact the three leaders with your offer of help and the make-up of the sections can be published in the next newsletter.

In an effort to further publicise our club, your committee has asked me to write a few paragraphs for inclusion in the monthly village/church magazines of Lowdham and Woodborough and also in the bi-monthly magazine of Hoveringham and Caythorpe. This should provide us with free publicity and you are invited to let me know of any breaking news which could be included.

**Entertainment (we hope)**

1) Some New Year’s advice:

 Pulse slightly feverish – spirits depressed?

 Liver disorganised – cold in the chest?

 Eyes drooping heavily – appetite wrecked?

 No, nothing serious - still, if unchecked

 May become troublesome, .Jollop won’t do;

 Playing the fool’s the prescription for you.

 Don’t swallow tonics or tablets like that;

 Aim a few snowballs at somebody’s hat.

 Ring up a butcher and order a suit,

 Start a discussion on ‘are tadpoles fruit’?

 Offer a drunkard some water to drink,

 And in 24 hours you’ll be right

 In the pink!

2) **Anagrams**

**1 Yield from a set price**

 **2 Red artists I rock (2 words)**

 **3 Lock-keeper out of the rain (hyphenated)**

 **Last answers**

**1 A largely restored showplace - gallery**

 **2 Out when tea’s been made - absentee**

 **3 To be glad I knew my duty - obligated**

**3) Limerick time**

***A silly young girl named Fiona***

 ***Was Oh such a moaner and groaner.***

 ***One day in despair,***

 ***She pulled out her hair***

 ***And now no man ever ‘phones her.***

**4) Did you know?**

![Gary_the_snail[1]]()

**The French cannot stand fast food – that’s why they eat snails!**

Yours sincerely

Cliff Rycroft